

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO MODIFY A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0024139-10-1

Permittee: VILLAGE OF GRATIOT, P O Box 189, Gratiot, WI, 53541-0189

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Gratiot Wastewater Treatment Facility, 10925 SIMONS LANE, GRATIOT, WISCONSIN

Receiving Water And Location: Wolf Creek (Lower Pecatonica River Watershed, SP07 – Sugar-Pecatonica River Basin) in Lafayette County

Brief Facility Description : The Village of Gratiot operates a wastewater treatment facility that serves a population of approximately 236 with no industrial contributors. Wastewater is conveyed by gravity sewer system to a lift station located near the intersection of STH 11 and Sheldon Street. The lift station pumps the sewage through 3520 feet of 4" force main to the first chamber of the solids settling tank. In the first chamber of the solids settling tank, solids settle to the bottom of the tank, while liquid passes through the transfer pipe between the two chambers of the tank. Further settling occurs in the second chamber. Decomposition of organic solids occurs in both chambers of the tank. After liquid passes through the solids tank, it passes into the wet well. One of the two self-priming, non-clog sewage pumps moves the liquid through the 4" diameter filter feed pipe to the sand filter. At the sand filter, the liquid is distributed through 3" diameter headers to 1 1/2" diameter perforated distribution pipes. Once the liquid passes through the sand filter, it is collected at the bottom of the filter by slotted collection pipes then goes to recirculation channel where some goes back to the wet well and some goes through UV disinfection chamber and to the outfall.

Solids from the two septic tanks at the wastewater treatment facility were formerly regulated as septage under ch. NR 113, Wis. Adm. Code. The proposed permit requires the permittee to manage solids as municipal biosolids, with regular monitoring for solids, metals, and nutrients according to the requirements of ch. NR 204, Wis. Adm. Code, for Domestic Sewage Sludge Management. Recent land application of solids on approved sites during the current permit term warrants the change in the regulatory requirement. For this permit term, Gratiot has applied for an individual phosphorus variance.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Jennifer Jerich, DNR, N7725 Hwy 28, Horicon, WI, 53032, (920) 450-4078, Jennifer.Jerich@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Caitlin Oconnell, 1500 N Johns Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533, (608) 716-9964, Caitlin.Oconnell@wisconsin.gov

Proposed Modification: Gratiot was reissued a WPDES permit with zinc limits set to become effective per the Zinc Schedule. The permittee completed the actions required in the Zinc Schedule. The department determined there is no reasonable potential to exceed zinc limits. Therefore with this permit modification zinc limits are removed and zinc sampling is reduced to quarterly for the remainder of the permit term. The removal of zinc limits also warrants the removal of required acute WET testing. No other changes were made to the permit with this permit modification.

The Department has tentatively decided that the above specified WPDES permit should be modified.

Limitations and conditions which the Department believes adequately protect the receiving water are included in the proposed permit. Land application of waste shall be done in accordance with permit conditions and applicable codes. All land application sites shall be approved prior to their use. To receive a list of approved sites, or to be notified of potential approvals, contact the above named basin engineer.

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action, or to request a public hearing, may write to the Department of Natural Resources at the above named permit drafter's address. All comments or suggestions received no later than 30 days after the publication date of this public notice will be considered along with other information on file in making a final decision regarding the permit. Anyone providing comments in response to this public notice will receive a notification of the Department's final decision when the permit is issued. Where designated as a reviewable surface water discharge permit, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is allowed up to 90 days to submit comments or objections regarding this permit determination. If no comments are received on the proposed permit from anyone, including U.S. EPA, the permit will be issued as proposed.

The Department may schedule a public informational hearing if requested by any person and shall schedule a public informational hearing if a petition requesting a hearing is received from 5 or more persons or if response to this notice indicates significant public interest pursuant to s. 283.49, Stats. Requests for a public informational hearing shall state the following: the name and address of the person(s) requesting the hearing; the interest in the proposed permit of the person(s) requesting the hearing; the reasons for the request; and the issues proposed to be considered at the hearing.

Information on file for this permit action, including the draft permit, fact sheet and permit application, may be inspected and copied at either the above named permit drafter's office or the above named basin engineer's office, Monday through Friday (except holidays), between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Please call the permit drafter or basin engineer for directions to their office location, if necessary. Information on this permit action may also be obtained by calling the permit drafter at (920) 387-7886 or by writing to the Department. Reasonable costs (15 cents per page for copies and 7 cents per page for scanning) will be charged for information in the file other than the public notice, permit and fact sheet. Permit information is also available on the internet at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PublicNotices.html>. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be made to qualified individuals upon request.

NAME OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: Republican Journal

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: 316 Main St., Darlington, WI 53530

Date Notice Issued: Thursday, October 29, 2020